

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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US MISSION GENEVA 2116

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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DEA HQS WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 4900

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 28936

FOR: AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY FROM: WHITEHOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NL, TH

SUBJECT: DUTCH NARCOTICS OFFICER FOR BANGKOK

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 5665 (B) THE HAGUE 5666 (NOTAL)

1. I MET TODAY (OCTOBER 19) WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL FONTEIJN OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF THE NETHERLANDS TO DISCUSS THE ADVISABILITY OF THE ASSIGNMENT OF A DUTCH NARCOTICS OFFICER TO BANGKOK ON A PERMANENT BASIS. I FOUND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ALREADY WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE LOCAL SITUATION DUE TO HIS BRIEFINGS BY OUR DEA PEOPLE AS WELL AS THE THAI POLICE OFFICIALS SUCH AS COLONEL CHAVALIT WHO ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT PROGRAM HERE BECAUSE THE PROBLEM IS NOT PECULIARLY THAI OR AMERICAN BUT ONE THAT HAS AN IMPACT ON SOUTHEAST ASIA, EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. I CITED FOR HIM RECENT INSTANCES WHERE JOINT EFFORTS BY OUR PEOPLE THE THAI BRITISH AND CANADIANS HAD RESULTED IN SOME IMPORTANT
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SEIZURES AND THE APPREHENSION OF SOME MAJOR TRAFFICKERS.

2. FONTEIJN SEEMED TO ME ALREADY CONVINCED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A PERMANENTLY-STATIONED DUTCH NARCOTICS OFFICER IN BANGKOK. IN FACT THE QUESTIONS HE POSED WERE DIRECTED NOT SO MUCH AS ESTABLISHING THE JUSTIFICATION FOR SUCH A POSTING BUT RATHER THE RANK AND EXPERIENCE OF THE LIKELY INCUMBENT. (FONTEIJN FEELS THAT IT SHOULD BE A "HEAVYWEIGHT" I.E., AN EXPERIENCED SENIOR OFFICER RATHER THAN A TYRO.) WHEN HE TOOK HIS LEAVE, HE WAS TALKING IN TERMS OF THE FOLLOWING TIMETABLE: SOMEONE FROM THE HAGUE COMING TO BANGKOK WITHIN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS TO WORK OUT THE MODALITIES WITH THE THAI WITH THE RESIDENT AGENT ARRIVING SOMETIME THEREAFTER.

WHITEHOUSE

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